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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/464,253	12/16/1999	LOUIS CENTOFANTI	16715-0121	7296

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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, EDWARD M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1754

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2002

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

MF-12

Office Action Summary

Application No.

Applicant(s)

09/664-774

NA ET AL

Examiner

Art Unit

Edward M. Johnson

1754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

to 4,253

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the second sentence merely repeats information given in the title. Examiner suggests deletion. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included

or excluded by the claim language. This claim is an omnibus type claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen 5,551,976.

Regarding claims 1, 12, 22, and 30, Allen '976 discloses a method for the disposal of radioactive waste (see column 1, lines 12-16) comprising: admixing a polymer (see column 5, lines 14-20) with the waste material to encapsulate the waste within the polymer (see column 4, lines 7-13) wherein the polymer prevents radiation from passing through (see column 4, lines 60-62), further mixing the polymer-waste admixture with a shielding material wherein the polymer-waste mixture is incorporated within the shielding material (see abstract and column 2, lines 50-55), and forming the final mixture into solidified, round geometric shapes (which inherently have a high volume per unit

Art Unit: 1754

surface area compared to thin sheets or rods) to further improve overall performance (see column 3, lines 63-67).

Allen '976 fails to disclose alpha particles.

It is considered that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prevent alpha particle radiation because Allen '976 discloses the disposal of radioactive waste (see column 1, lines 12-16), which one of ordinary skill would reasonably interpret as all radioactive waste, including alpha particle radiation, rather than all radioactive waste except alpha particle radiation.

Regarding claims 2, 13 and 23, Allen '976 discloses the radioactive material as radon (see column 9, line 67).

Regarding claims 3, 19, and 24, Allen '976 discloses the polymer selected from mineral oil, charcoal, activated carbon, silicates, sulfur, organic polymers or inorganic polymers (see column 5, lines 14-20; column 6, lines 34-56).

Regarding claims 4, 20, and 25, Allen '976 discloses the polymer added in an amount from about 0.1 to about 30 percent by weight based on the amount of waste material (see column 6, lines 14-33).

Regarding claims 5, 11, 17, 21, and 29, Allen '976 discloses disposal by sealing the polymer/waste material in

Art Unit: 1754

molded forms, such as blocks stored in landfills (see column 2, lines 2-3).

Regarding claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 26 Allen '976 discloses mixing the polymer and waste material with a shielding material such that the polymer-waste material is incorporated with the shielding material, by mixing it with concrete (see abstract and column 2, lines 50-67).

Regarding claims 8 and 27, Allen '976 discloses the amount of shielding material in a ratio from about 2 to 1 (see column 6, lines 24-33; up to about 60 percent concrete).

Regarding claims 9, 10, 14, and 28, Allen '976 discloses a geometric shape with a high volume per unit surface area selected from a substantially spherical or cubic shape to further improve overall performance (see column 3, lines 63-67).

Regarding claim 18, Allen '976 discloses mixing the polymer with the waste material to encapsulate the radioactive material to prevent radiation from passing through (see column 4, lines 7-13 and column 2, lines 57-60).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12/18/01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is argued that the present claims are drawn to, *inter alia*, methods for preventing **alpha particle radiation**. This is

Art Unit: 1754

not persuasive because Allen '976 discloses the disposal of radioactive waste (see column 1, lines 12-16), which one of ordinary skill would reasonably interpret as all radioactive waste, including alpha particle radiation, rather than all radioactive waste except alpha particle radiation.

It is argued that the prior art of record teaches methods for disposing hazardous waste. This is not persuasive because Allen '976 discloses admixing a polymer (see column 5, lines 14-20) with the waste material to encapsulate the waste within the polymer (see column 4, lines 7-13) wherein the polymer prevents radiation from passing through (see column 4, lines 60-62). Also, a "polymer barrier" is analogous to a "solidified mass", contrary to Applicant's apparent suggestion.

Conclusion

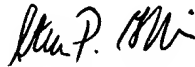
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward M. Johnson whose telephone number is 703-305-0216. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven P. Griffin can be reached on 703-308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned

Art Unit: 1754

are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



STEVEN P. GRIFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

EMJ

January 14, 2002